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June 28, 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT STEPPED UP DURING JULY 4 WEEKEND** ***Law enforcement agencies across Michigan patrol during holiday***

Drunk drivers looking for a thrill during the Fourth of July weekend might see flashes of red and blue in their rearview mirrors. Law enforcement officers in Michigan are planning additional drunk driving patrols to make sure motorists celebrate the holiday weekend safely.

The Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) is administering federal traffic safety funds for the enforcement activity, which will take place all summer in an attempt to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities.

"The Fourth of July was the deadliest holiday weekend on Michigan's roads last year, and law enforcement officers will be out looking for and arresting drunk drivers to reduce deaths and injuries," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP division director. "Independence Day is a great time to celebrate, but everyone should do so responsibly by designating a sober driver."

In 2005, more traffic fatalities in Michigan occurred during the Fourth of July weekend than any other holiday period that year. Over the three-day weekend, 13 traffic crashes resulted in 17 fatalities. Thirty-one percent of the crashes involved alcohol.

Sixty-six agencies in 26 counties are receiving federal funding to participate in the Fourth of July holiday enforcement activity. The participating counties are: Allegan, Bay, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clinton, Genesee, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Hillsdale, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Manistique, Marquette, Menominee, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ottawa, Roscommon, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Van Buren and Wayne.

A driver with a .08 or higher blood alcohol content is considered drunk. Violators face up to: 93 days in jail, a \$500 fine, 360 hours of community service, 6 points on a driver's license and 180 days' license suspension. Convicted drunk drivers also will be subject to a \$1,000 penalty for two consecutive years.

For a list of enforcement times, dates and locations, visit [www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp).